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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

For: NOVEL SURFACE PROTEIN  
(HBsAg) VARIANT OF THE  
HEPATITIS B VIRUS

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) Group Art Unit: To be assigned  
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) Examiner: To be assigned  
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Sir:

**SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Office the documents on the attached PTO SB/08 Form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application. Copies of the documents and references listed on the attached PTO Form SB-08 are included.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed

documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Office applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

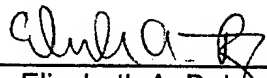
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 08, 2006

By:   
Elizabeth A. Doherty  
Reg. No. 50,894

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/561,345
Filing Date	December 20, 2005
First Named Inventor	Udo KRUPKA
Art Unit	To be assigned
Examiner Name	To be assigned
Attorney Docket Number	05552.1463-00

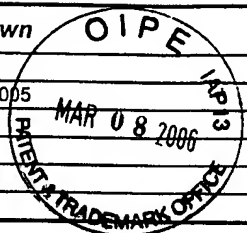
U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		WO 02/079217	10-10-2002	P. COLEMAN et al.		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS); title of the article (when appropriate); title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		W. M. LEE, "Hepatitis B Virus Infection," <i>N. Engl. J. Med.</i> 337: 1733-1745 (1997).	
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IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
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		Filing Date	December 20, 2005
		First Named Inventor	Udo KRUPKA
		Art Unit	To be assigned
		Examiner Name	To be assigned
		Attorney Docket Number	05552.1463-00
Sheet	2	of	2



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	L. FISCHER et al., "Hepatitis B Virus Variants Associated With Clinically Severe Recurrence After Liver Transplantation," <i>Transplantation Proceedings</i> 31: 492-493 (1999).	
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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.